to repeal the Blasphemy Laws and to legalise the voluntary sterilisation of mental defectives. A Member of Parliament, Mr. John Beckett, later to become editor of an organ of the British Union of Fascists, by way of protest seized the mace and walked away with it; another Member refused to obey the Speaker's ruling and was ejected by the Sergeant-at-Arms, five fellow Members clinging to him.

There were resignations—Sir Charles Trevelyan, Lord Arnold, Mr. W. J. Brown, who gave as his reason for resigning from the Labour Party that 'continued membership of it had become incompatible with any kind of intellectual integrity'; deaths, among others Mr. Vernon Hartshorn's; ominous by-elections all showing a heavy fall in the Labour Party vote. Snowden, his own followers silent, his opponents applauding, delivered a solemn warning in the House of Commons: "I say with all the seriousness I can command, that the national position is so grave that drastic and disagreeable measures will have to be taken if budgetary equilibrium is to be maintained/ A Friends of Economy Movement was launched under the direction of Lord Grey, among its supporters Mr. Neville Chamberlain, who proclaimed that the 'first duty must be to reduce national expenditure', little anticipating then that in a few years' time he would be delighting a Birmingham audience with an announcement that it was proposed to spend .£1,000,000,000 on armaments in the course of the years 193 8-40. The Movement's main forum was the correspondence columns of *The Times.* There day by day appeared letters complaining that money was being

squandered and wealth
taxed out of existence; among them one from Sir Reginald
Bacon which argued that financial deterioration began in 1894,
when Sir William Harcourt introduced increased death duties,
which 'up to date have been responsible for destroying at least
.£2,000,000,000 of the capital of the country by taking that
sum from the investing and employer section of the community.'
Leaving budgets unbalanced was called 'sinning against the
light'; and attention was drawn to the fine example of Australia,
where in spite of Mr. Lang, the turbulent Prime Minister of